

REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 5-14 and 23-30 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 15-22 and 31 were previously cancelled without prejudice. By this Amendment, Claims 2-3, 5-6, 11, 24-25 and 27 are amended, and Claims 7, 10 and 23 are cancelled without prejudice, thereby leaving Claims 8-9, 12-14, 26 and 28-30 unchanged.

The present Application is on Appeal. Claims 8-9, 25-26 and 28-30 were previously allowed. The Examiner rejected Claims 2-3, 5-7, 10-14, 23-24 and 27, and Applicants appealed these rejections. In the Examiner's Answer, dated June 2, 2004, the Examiner withdrew the rejections of Claims 13-14 and 27 and indicated that these claims include allowable subject matter. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 8-9, 13-14, 25-26 and 28-30 and indication that Claim 27 includes allowable subject matter.

By the present Amendment, allowed Claim 25 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

After the Examiner's Answer, Claims 2-3, 5-7, 10-12 and 23-24 stand rejected under the prior art of record. Specifically, the Examiner rejected Claims 2-3, 5-7, 10-12 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,007,172 ("Palm") in combination with United States Patent No. 5,987,758 ("McCurry").

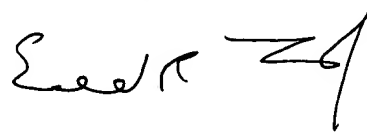
Without prejudice, Applicants have cancelled Claims 7, 10 and 23 and have amended Claims 2-3 and 5-6, Claims 11-12 and Claim 24 to depend from allowable independent Claims 8, 13 and 25, respectively, rendering these rejections moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections and reserve the right to re-present the rejected claims and to address the Examiner's rejections in a continuation patent application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that, in addition to previously allowed Claims 8-9, 13-14, 25-26 and 28-30, Claims 2-3, 5-6, 10-12, 24 and 27 are now allowable and, therefore, respectfully request entry of the present Amendment to place the present Application in a condition for allowance.

During normal business hours, the undersigned is available at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward R. Lawson Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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